

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 OC-05 CCO-00

SIL-01 LAB-04 /075 W

----- 096201

R 101500Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6448

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJ: TWA REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE TEMPORARILY DISTRUPTED

1. AS RESULT OF WILDCAT STRIKE BY POST OFFICE COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNICIANS AT SHANNON BEGINNING JANUARY 21, OPERATIONS OF TWA'S
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER IN SHANNON WAS SERIOUSLY DISTRUPTED. THIS
CENTER SERVICES BOTH NORTH ATLANTIC AND EUROPE. AFTER INITIAL
DISRUPTION OF SERVICE SOME COMMUNICATIONS LINES WERE RESTORED,
BUT ON FEBRUARY 1 ALL COMMUNICATIONS LINES WERE AGAIN DOWNGRADED
AND TWA WAS FORCED TO BRING ITS PERSONNEL TO DUBLIN WHERE IT
SET UP TEMPORARY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS. MATTER WAS
SERIOUS ENOUGH PROBLEM THAT TWA, ACCORDING TO LOCAL MANAGER,
WAS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING DOWN SHANNON CENTER
AND REESTABLISHING IT ELSEWHERE. THIS WAS OF SERIOUS CONCERN
INASMUCH AS JOBS OF SIXTEEN HIGHLY PAID IRISH DISPATCHERS WERE
INVOLVED, IN ADDITION TO INVESTMENT IN SHANNON.

2. ON FEBRUARY 5 TWA MANAGER FOR IRELAND APPROACHED EMBASSY.
HE HAD RECEIVED REPORT THAT POST OFFICE, WHICH OPERATES ALL
COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN IRELAND, HAD INTERVENED WITH NON-
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STRIKING COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS WHO HAD RESTORED SOME CIRCUITS

AT SHANNON FOR IRISH GOVERNMENT AND AER LINGUS. IF CORRECT, THIS IMPLIED DISCRIMINATORY GOVERNMENT ACTION IN FAVOR OF NATIONAL AIRLINE AND AGAINST US CARRIER. TWA HAD BEEN IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH UNIONS AND IRISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND IT HAD MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO HAVE ITS COMMUNICATIONS LINES RESTORED.

3. FEBRUARY 6 EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON MR. S. DRUMMOND, ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AT POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. EMBOFF NOTED OUR INTEREST IN SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS OF MAJOR US AIRLINE. HE NOTED THAT WILDCAT STRIKE IS, OF COURSE, BEYOND CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT BUT HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IF GOVERNMENT DID INTERVENE TO RESTORE COMMUNICATIONS LINES THERE WOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION INVOLVED. HE ALSO ASKED THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO TAKE ANY APPROPRIATE ACTION TO RESTORE TWA COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUITS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. MR. DRUMMOND ASSURED EMBOFF THAT THERE HAD NOT IN FACT BEEN ANY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TWA AND HE UNDERTOOK TO DO WHAT HE COULD.

4. FOLLOWING DAY - FEBRUARY 7 - ONE OF TWA'S TWO PRIMARY LINES WAS RESTORED, AND TELEX SERVICE WAS RESUMED. WHILE IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN, IT IS APPARENT POST OFFICE MADE SOME SPECIAL EFFORT TO RESTORE TWA'S SERVICE. STRIKING TECHNICIANS ARE STILL OUT OF WORK BUT SOME ARE BEGINNING TO RETURN AND STRIKE MAY BE SETTLED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. TWA HAS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO EMBASSY FOR ITS SUPPORT, AND EMBASSY IN TURN

HAS CONVEYED ITS GRATITUDE TO MR. DRUMMOND FOR HIS PROMPT INTERVENTION.

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